

Law (Genl) (1931) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 101

DATED 9 - 1 - 1931

[Despatch Abstract.]

Motor Vehicles - Speed Limit & motor
accidents. Town of H. E. to S. Kanara
Papers recorded

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MADRAS.

Memo. No. 3-1402 30

(Police) Transferred to the ^{Chief} Secretary to Government, Public
Department, for favour of disposal.

Enclosures:-

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(By order of His Excellency the Governor)



Madras Governor's Camp,
5th December 1930

B. S. S.
Private Secretary.

(Copy)

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Mangalore, 4th October 1930.

In view of His Excellency the Governor's visit to this district, while heartily welcoming His Excellency, I may take the liberty to note down some points demanding pressing attention of Government.

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Another point I urged in the Council is the control of motor vehicles and reporting serious accidents to Government by the Police (L.C.P. LIII, 557-558).

(for
forward)

vide p. 4 of
letter file

Though much improvement has been introduced in the right direction, there is yet a listlessness in the policy of Government which must be converted into greater control and vigilance, as may be judged from a very recent serious motor accident near Mangalore by the gross carelessness of the driver drunk excessively as is alleged.

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(Sd) J. A. Salunna

(Copy)

South Kanara ³Collector's
Office, Mangalore,
dated 25th ^{November}~~October~~ 1930.

My dear Green,

With reference to Mr.J.A.Saldanna's
note, I enclose copies of the D.O. letter from
the District Superintendent of Police, South
Kanara, received in reply to my D.O. letters
dated 6th October 1930, dealing with the subjects
in detail.

Yours sincerely,

G.W.WELLS.

(Copy)

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Office of the District Superintendent
of Police, South Kanara, Mangalore,
dated 22nd November 1930.

My dear Wells,

Your D.O. dated 13th November 1930 -- Motor accidents
described as grievances by Mr. J.A.Saldanha.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the
Circle Inspector of Police, Mudabidri for your information. It
could be seen from the report that this case was purely an accident
due to the snapping of the tie rod pin which could not have been
foreseen by any one. The Sub-Inspector of Police, Buntwal had
already investigated into this case and reported that it was an
accident. But a petition was received at this stage from one of
the passengers saying that the driver was rashly driving and that
he was smelling of liquor. I ordered a fresh and personal enquiry
by the Circle Inspector who now reports that these allegations are
not true as borne out by the evidence of Rev.Fr.B.Aranha who was
seated by the side of the driver and one Keshava Vaman Baliga. As
a fresh enquiry was ordered, there was some delay in sending this
report to you.

Sincerely yours,

(SD)

K.RAJAGOPALA THAMBAN.

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Copy of report of the Circle Inspector of Police,
Mudabidri, dated 17th November 1930.

Resubmitted to the District Superintendent of Police,
South Kanara.

I held personal enquiry into the attached petition as
ordered by the District Superintendent of Police.

The petition refers to an accident to Bus. S.K. 348 of
the Shanker Vittal Motor Company on 27th September 1930 near Pudu
on Mangalore-Buntwal road. The Bus was being driven by one Montu
Minezes s/o Danuval Minezes.

The scene of the accident is near Pudu. The road is

broad at the place. The road is descending there rather steeply. From the beginning of the descent to the actual place where the Bus fell is about 20 yards. There is a gradual turning with a culvert at the bottom of the descent. The turning is not sharp and one could take the turning without any difficulty.

I questioned the petitioner at Mangalore. The Petitioner states that the driver was driving at great speed. He cannot give out the actual speed as he was not seated on the front seat.

I then questioned Rev. Father B.Aranha who was in the Kankanady Hospital. He stated that on 27th September 1930 he got into the Bus near Kankanady gate and occupied a seat by the side of the driver. At the scene of the accident, just when the Bus was at the top of the descent, he heard the driver exclaiming "Ha" and saw the driver jamming the brakes, but in spite of all efforts of the driver, the bus turned down into the ditch --- on the right of the road about 20 yards further down and capsized. The Bus was not being driven at high speed. From the exclamation of despair and helplessness made by the driver, he thought that something had gone wrong with the Bus. He is positive that the driver was not drunk or smelling of liquor. His impression is that the accident was due to something having gone wrong with the steering. He adds that the turning at the place was very broad, and if nothing was wrong with the steering, anybody could take the turning safely and easily even if travelling at a fairly good speed.

Keshava Vaman Baliga s/o Vaman Baliga was also a passenger in the Bus on the day. He states that the Bus was going at ordinary speed and was not going fast. In fact, he says the Bus was an old one and was not capable of taking any speed. He adds that he heard the driver exclaiming Ha just when descending at the place, indicating that something was wrong with the Bus. He also saw driver applying the brakes, but the Bus went on and fell into the ditch on the right of the road. The Bus was being driven till the scene on the left side where it suddenly swerved and ran down and capsized.

Monthu Minezes, the driver stated that he was driving the Bus at ordinary speed, that at the scene, he found that the wheel did not respond to the steering wheel when descending

and exclaimed "Ha" thinking that all was lost, and jammed the brakes -- but as the wheels were not responding to the steering wheel, the Bus turned from the left side of the road to the right side and fell down. It appears to be an accident due to steering having given way. The turning is so broad that even a beginner at driving can take it at good speed if nothing is wrong with the steering. It does not appear to be true that the driver was drunk or smelling of liquor.

I made enquiries as regards the refusal of Bus S.K. 242 of the same Company. The driver of that Bus did not take any of the passengers who were injured in the accident. There is however no legal provision that he must render aid. It is a matter which the Company should notice and deal with. If deemed fit, the Manager of the Shanker Vittal Co. may be informed of the conduct of the driver that he may be suitably dealt with.

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